Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP (BAKER, HOWARD W.)

SUBJECT: CODEL BAKER: VISIT TO CAIRO

1. SENATOR AND MRS. HOWARD BAKER, ACCOMPANIED BY SENATE AIDES TILLMAN AND BRANSON, AND ALSO MR. AND MRS. WORTHINGTON, PERSONAL FRIENDS, VISITED CAIRO MAY 22-24, 1975. DURING VISIT, CODEL BAKER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AND FONMIN FAHMY, ON MAY 24 AND 23 RESPECTIVELY. SENATOR BAKER HELD DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTH OF THEM (REPORTED IN SEPTELS) IN WHICH HE DISCUSSED THE CURRENT ME SITUATION AND PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS ON A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM. IN THE CASE OF BOTH VISITS, SENATOR AND MRS. BAKER, TOGETHER WITH THE SENATOR'S AIDES, WERE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT AND MRS. SADAT AND BY FONMIN AND MRS. FAHMY IN ATMOSPHERE WHICH WAS BOTH FRIENDLY AND INFORMAL. VP MOBAREK ALSO ATTENDED SADAT MEETING.

2. CODEL BAKER WAS ENTERTAINED AT A LUNCHEON WITH PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MEMBERS HOSTED BY DEPUTY SPEAKER DR. OTEIFI AND A DINNER GIVEN BY CHARGE AND MRS. MAESTRONE, WHICH INCLUDED THE MINISTERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF FINANCE AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND ATOMIC

ENERGY TOGETHER WITH OTHER PROMINENT EGYPTIANS AS GUESTS. CODEL BAKER ALSO HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE PYRAMIDS AT GIZA AND SAQQARA AND THE EGYPTIAN MUSEUM.

- 3. ALTHOUGH SENATOR BAKER'S CONVERSATIONS WITH FONMIN FAHMY AND PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MEMBERS WERE SOMEWHAT COLORED BY THE PUBLICATION OF THE LETTER SUPPORTING ISRAEL SIGNED BY 76 SENATORS (SENATOR BAKER DID NOT SIGN.), THESE CONVERSATIONS WERE CONDUCTED IN A FRANK AND CORDIAL MANNER. HIS EGYPTIAN INTERLOCUTORS WERE FULLY RESPONSIVE TO HIS QUESTIONS AND DID NOT HESITATE TO FURNISH SENATOR WITH THEIR VIEWS ON EGYPTIAN AND ALSO US POLICIES WITH RESPECT TO ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION.
- 4. SENATOR BAKER INDICATED HE FOUND HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH SADAT AND FAHMY EXTREMELY USEFUL AND WAS ABLE, THOUGH THESE TALKS AND THOSE HE HELD WITH OTHER EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS AT THE VARIOUS FUNCTIONS HE ATTENDED, TO GAIN A GREATER INSIGHT INTO PROBLEMS OF EGYPT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CURRENT ME SITUATION AND A BETTER APPRECIATION FOR THEIR ASPIRATIONS.

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